



25/02/2015

Dear Sir / Madam

RE : ZAKARIYYA PARK MADRESSAH, JOHANNESBURG // AL JAZEERAH

1. I refer to the release of the "Spy Cables" published by yourselves on 24 February 2015 and in particular point 14.3 which read as follows "

"The Zakariyya Park Madressa in Zakariyya Park in Johannesburg has regular training sessions for South African Muslim students and foreigners in order to keep them ready for a possible Jihad against USA aggression in the Middle East. "

2. It is with a sense of deep disappointment that it has come to our attention that the reports released by your station have emerged identifying our institute and others as a Jihadist training facility. Undoubtedly, the reports are wholly untrue, and maliciously so.

3. Furthermore, the report was published without the name of our institution being deleted as it should have been. Pertinently, such reports have been re-published by other media in South Africa in a sensationalist manner whereby our institute, Darul Uloom Zakariyya has been accused of conducting Jihad training camps which allegations are absolutely untrue.

4. The allegation was printed on your website under the South African Operational Target Analysis of Iran, whereas our organisation is a strictly Sunni institution, who are diametrically opposed to Shiasim and we have no ties to Iran or any country.

5. Furthermore, our institute is a strictly academic institute not unlike any other tertiary institute in our country in that it offers academic tuition to students in the Islamic Sciences. Our institution is a religious one and all students are legal and have valid and proper visas. Students are strongly directed to distance themselves from all politics and anything that could bring the institute or our country into disrepute. In the current atmosphere of hate speech and fear mongering, it is especially important that an organization like yours verifies information before disseminating it.

6. We place on record that we were not afforded the opportunity to provide a right of response to this article, which is unethical. Furthermore, an article of this nature was printed and published on your website without first verifying its authenticity.

7. Publication of the "spy cables" with reference to ourselves (name of institution not deleted) has caused irreparable harm to ourselves and our students. It has also caused panic amongst the learners and our community.

8. We accordingly request that this rebuttal afore-stated be published and we be afforded an opportunity to state our position both in writing and on air. Our institute has always maintained an open and transparent policy.

Yours faithfully

(Moulana) Shabier Ahmed Saloojee -
Rector - Darul Uloom Zakariyya